

### Amendments to the Claims

The listing of the claims will replace the previous version, and the listing of the claims;

### Listing of the Claims

1. (currently amended) A metal gasket having a hole to be sealed, comprising:

a first metal base plate having a first main bead around the hole, ~~and~~ a first outer sub-bead section smaller than the first main bead and provided outside the first main bead, and a first inner sub-bead section smaller than the first main bead and provided inside the first main bead, and

a second metal base plate laminated with the first metal base plate and having a second main bead around the hole, ~~and~~ a second outer sub-bead section smaller than the second main bead and provided outside the second main bead, said second outer sub-bead section abutting at least partly against the first outer sub-bead section in a radial direction of the hole for sealing, and a second inner sub-bead section smaller than the second main bead and provided inside the second main bead, said second inner sub-bead section abutting at least partly against the first inner sub-bead section in the radial direction for sealing.

2. (original) A metal gasket according to claim 1, wherein said first and second main beads are arranged to project outwardly of the gasket.

3. (original) A metal gasket according to claim 2, wherein said first and second main beads are half beads formed around the hole.

4. (original) A metal gasket according to claim 3, wherein said first and second outer sub-bead sections abut against each other at side peripheries thereof.

5. (original) A metal gasket according to claim 3, wherein said first and second outer sub-bead sections orient in same directions so that one of the first and second outer sub-bead sections fit in the other of the first and second outer sub-bead sections.

6. (original) A metal gasket according to claim 3, wherein at least one of the first and second outer sub-bead sections is formed intermittently in a circumferential direction.

7. (cancelled)

8. (currently amended) A metal gasket as claimed in claim 7 1, wherein said first and second inner sub-bead sections contact each other and said first and second outer sub-bead sections contact each other when the gasket is assembled.

9. (original) A metal gasket according to claim 8, wherein said first and second main beads are arranged to project outwardly of the gasket.

10. (original) A metal gasket according to claim 9, wherein said first and second outer sub-bead sections and said first and second inner sub-bead sections abut against each other, respectively, at side peripheries thereof.

11. (original) A metal gasket according to claim 8, wherein said first and second outer sub-bead sections and said first and second inner sub-bead sections orient in same directions, respectively, so

that one of the first and second outer sub-bead sections fits in the other of the first and second outer sub-bead sections, and one of the first and second inner sub-bead sections fits in the other of the first and second inner sub-bead sections.

12. (original) A metal gasket according to claim 8, wherein at least one of the first and second outer sub-bead sections and said first and second inner sub-bead section is formed of two sub-beads.

13. (original) A metal gasket according to claim 8, wherein at least one of the first and second outer sub-bead sections and first and second inner sub-bead sections is formed intermittently in a circumferential direction.

14. (new) A metal gasket according to claim 1, wherein said second outer sub-bead section is at least partly located outside the first outer sub-bead section and said second inner sub-bead section is at least partly located inside the first inner sub-bead section so that when the gasket is compressed, the second outer and inner sub-bead sections restrict lateral movements of the first outer and inner sub-bead sections.

15. (new) A metal gasket according to claim 14, wherein said second main bead has a size less than that of the first main bead.

16. (new) A metal gasket having a hole to be sealed, comprising:

a first metal base plate having a first main bead around the hole, and a first outer sub-bead section smaller than the first main bead and provided outside the first main bead, and

a second metal base plate laminated with the first metal base plate and including a second main bead formed around the hole to project in a direction opposite to the first main bead and having a

size less than that of the first bead, and a second outer sub-bead section smaller than the second main bead and provided outside the second main bead, said second outer sub-bead section being located at least partly outside the first outer sub-bead section and abutting against thereto in a radial direction of the hole for restricting lateral movement of the first outer sub-bead section.

17. (new) A metal gasket according to claim 16, wherein said first and second main beads are half beads, and said first and second outer sub-bead sections orient in same directions so that one of the first and second outer sub-bead sections fit in the other of the first and second outer sub-bead sections.

18. (new) A metal gasket according to claim 16, wherein at least one of the first and second outer sub-bead sections is formed of two sub-beads, and the other of the first and second outer sub-bead sections being located between the two sub-beads.